



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

Fiscal Note 2017 Biennium

Bill #	HB0631	Title:	Create new judicial districts
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Primary Sponsor:	Schwaderer, Nicholas	Status:	As Introduced
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|--|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Significant Local Gov Impact | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Needs to be included in HB 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> Technical Concerns |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Included in the Executive Budget | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Significant Long-Term Impacts | <input type="checkbox"/> Dedicated Revenue Form Attached |

FISCAL SUMMARY

	<u>FY 2016 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2017 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2018 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2019 Difference</u>
Expenditures:				
General Fund	\$739,146	\$1,244,593	\$1,263,262	\$1,282,211
Revenue:				
General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Impact-General Fund Balance:	<u>(\$739,146)</u>	<u>(\$1,244,593)</u>	<u>(\$1,263,262)</u>	<u>(\$1,282,211)</u>

Description of fiscal impact: HB 631 creates a new judicial district which would include Mineral and Sanders Counties. The bill also provides for an additional judge in this new district as well as an additional judge in both the 7th and 13th judicial districts.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

Assumptions:

- HB 631 includes an appropriation of \$2.595 million in New Section 4, however this amount does not account for the phasing in of the new district and new judges in the FY 2017 biennium. In order to more accurately calculate the costs in on going years, the projected expenses below were used in this fiscal note.
- HB 631 provides three new district court judges to be appointed and take office on January 1, 2016. The minimum staffing for each new judge includes a judicial assistant, a court reporter and a law clerk. Costs include personal services, operating and start up equipment costs.

3. Personal services costs for the full year of FY 2017 are estimated at \$542,154 for 3 judges; \$156,119 for 3 judicial assistants; \$184,772 for 3 law clerks and \$174,585 for 3 court reporters. Total projected personal services costs for FY 2017 are \$1,057,630. FY 2016 costs (6 months) are projected to be \$528,815.
4. FY 2014 actual variable costs totaled \$1,716,120 across 46 district court judges, for an average of \$37,307 average variable cost per judge. Total projected FY 2017 variable costs are \$111,921 for three judges. (\$37,307 * 3 judges). FY 2016 costs (6 months) are projected to be \$55,960 (\$37,307 * 3 judges for 6 months).
5. Fixed operating costs for all 3 judges and 9 staff for a full fiscal year (FY 2017) are projected as follows: subscriptions \$1,080; communication costs \$27,843; law book costs \$11,139; data network computer access charges \$17,280; office supplies \$3,600; staff training \$2,700; copy costs \$4,800; court reporter maintenance and software \$3,600; on-line law information access costs \$3,000. Total operating costs for FY 2017 are projected to be \$75,042. FY 2016 costs (6 months) are projected to be \$37,521.
6. One-time startup costs in FY 2016 include the following items: standard new employee package of a desk, chair, bookshelf and file cabinet \$14,400; computers \$19,200; judge's robes \$1,500; courtroom signs \$1,500; MCA book costs \$6,000; law books \$1,500; office supply set up \$1,500; fax machines \$1,350; printers \$1,500; waiting room chairs \$1,500; file cabinets \$1,500; copier/scanner \$3,000; telephones \$2,400; hearing room setup \$30,000; and court reporting equipment \$30,000. Total projected FY 2016 startup costs are \$116,850.
7. Total costs are estimated to be \$739,146 in FY 2016 and \$1,244,593 in FY 2017.
8. Estimated expenditures are inflated by 1.5 percent in FY 2018 and FY 2019.
9. It is assumed that the 4th and the 20th judicial district's youth court would continue to provide probation services to those youth in the new 23rd judicial district.

	<u>FY 2016 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2017 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2018 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2019 Difference</u>
<u>Fiscal Impact:</u>				
FTE	6.00	12.00	12.00	12.00
<u>Expenditures:</u>				
Personal Services	\$528,815	\$1,057,630	\$1,073,494	\$1,089,597
Operating Expenses	\$210,331	\$186,963	\$189,767	\$192,614
TOTAL Expenditures	<u>\$739,146</u>	<u>\$1,244,593</u>	<u>\$1,263,262</u>	<u>\$1,282,211</u>
<u>Funding of Expenditures:</u>				
General Fund (01)	\$739,146	\$1,244,593	\$1,263,262	\$1,282,211
TOTAL Funding of Exp.	<u>\$739,146</u>	<u>\$1,244,593</u>	<u>\$1,263,262</u>	<u>\$1,282,211</u>
<u>Revenues:</u>				
General Fund (01)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL Revenues	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
<u>Net Impact to Fund Balance (Revenue minus Funding of Expenditures):</u>				
General Fund (01)	(\$739,146)	(\$1,244,593)	(\$1,263,262)	(\$1,282,211)

Effect on County or Other Local Revenues or Expenditures:

1. Each county is responsible for providing office space, courtroom and other space for district court operations per 3-1-125, MCA. It is assumed that existing courtrooms will be shared with the new District Court Judges. Additional space for judges and their staffs will need to be provided by each affected county.

Sponsor's Initials

Date

Budget Director's Initials

Date